The Adventure of The Noble Bachelor

BY SIR A. CONAN DOYLE.

THE Lord St. Simon marriage and its | pictures within the last few years, and in those exalted circles in which the gossips away from this four-year-old drama. As I have reason to believe, however, that the full facts have never been revealed to the general public, and as my friend Sherlock Holmes had a George's. Hanover square, that only gossips away from this four-year-old considerable share in clearing the matter up, I feel that no memoir of him would be complete without some little sketch of this remarkable episode.

It was a few weeks before my own marriage, during the days when I was still sharing rooms with Sherlock Holmes in Baker street, that he came home from an afternoon stroll to find a letter on the table waiting for him. weather had taken a sudden turn to rain, with high autumnal winds, and the jezail bullet which I had brought back in one of my limbs as a relic of my Afghan campaign, throbbed with dull persistency. With my body in one easy chair and my legs upon another, had surrounded myself with a cloud of newspapers, until at last, saturated with the news of the day, I tossed them all aside and lay listless, watching the huge crest and monogram upon the envelope upon the table, and wondering lazily who my friend's noble

"Here is a very fashionable epistle,"
I remarked, as he entered. "Your morning letters, if I remember right, were from a fish-monger and a tide-

tainly the charm of variety," he answered, smiling, "and the humbler are usually the more interesting. This looks like one of those unwelcome so-cial summonses which call upon a man either to be bored or to lie. He broke open the seal and glanced over the contents.

"Oh, come, it may prove to be something of interest, after all."
"Not social, then?"

"No, distinctly professional."
"And from a noble client?"
"One of the highest in England."

"My dear fellow. I congratulate you."
"I assure you, Watson, without affectation, that the status of my client is a matter of less moment to me than the interest of his case. It is just possible, however, that that also may not be wanting in this new investigation. You have been reading the papers dili-

gently of late, have you not?"
"It looks like it," said I, ruefully, pointing to a huge bundle in the corner. "I have had nothing else to do."
"It fortunate for the papers dis-"It is fortunate, for you will perhaps be able to post me up. I read noth except the criminal news and the ony column. The latter is always in-structive. But if you have followed recent events so closely you must have read about Lord St. Simon and his tington.

ts what he says: My dear Mr. Sherlock Holmes.-Lord Blackwater tells me that I may place implicit reliance upon your judgment and discretion. I have deterto consult you in reference to the very trade, of Scotland Yard, is acting already in the matter, but he assures in that he sees no objection to your co operation, and that he even thinks that it might be of some assistance. I will call at four o'clock in the afternoon, and should you have any other engage-ment at that time. I hope that you will postpone it, as this matter is of ramount importance. Yours fait

"It is dated from Grosvenor Mansions, written with a quill pen, and the noble lord has had the misfortune to get a smear of ink upon the outer side of his right little finger," remarked Holmes, as he folded up the epistle.

"He says four o'clock. It is three ow. He will be here in an hour." Then I have just time, with your assistance, to get clear upon the subject. Turn over those papers, and arrange the extracts in the order of time, while I take a glance as to who our client is." He picked a red-covered volume from a line of books of reference beside the mantel-piece. "Here he is," said he, sitting down and flattening it out upon knee. "Lord Robert Walsingham Vere St. Simon, second son of the Duke of Balmoral-Hum! Arms: Azure three caltrops in chief over a fess sable. Born in 1846. He's forty-one years of age, which is mature for mar-riage. Was Under-Secretary for the Colonies in a late administration. The Duke, his father, was at one time Sec-retary for Foreign Affairs. They inherit Plantagenet blood by direct des-cent, and Tudor on the distaff side. Ha! there is nothing very instructive in all this. I think that I must turn to you. Watson, for something more

ing what I want," said I, "for the facts are quite recent, and the matter struck me as remarkable. I feared to refer them to you, however, as I knew that you had an inquiry on hand, and that you disliked the intrusion of other

Oh, you mean the little problem of the Grosvenor Square furniture van. That is quite cleared up, now-though indeed it was obvious from the first. Pray give the results of your news-

stretching his long, thin legs

this in one of the society papers of the same week. Ah! here it is. There will soon be a call for protection in the marriage market, for the present freetrade principle appears to tell heavily against our home product. One by one the management of the noble houses Great Britain is passing into the hands our fair cousins from across the lantic. An important addition has een made during the last week to the list of the prizes which have been borne away by these charming invaders. Lord St. Simon, who has shown himself for over twenty years proof against the little god's arrows, has now definitely announced his approaching marriage with Miss Hatty Doran, the nating daughter of a California onaire. Miss Doran, whose graceful figure and striking face attracted much attention at the Westbury House festivities, is an only child, and it is currently reported that her dowry will run to considerably over the six tig-ures, with expectancies for the future. secret that the Duke of

curious termination have long as Lord St. Simon has no property of ceased to be a subject of interest moor, it is obvious that the (alifornia in those exalted circles in which the unfortunate bridegroom moves. Fresh alliance which will enable her to make

scandals have eclipsed it, and their the easy and common transition from more piquant details have drawn the a republican lady to a British peeress." "Anything else?" asked Holmes,

> George's, Hanover square, that only half a dozen intimate friends would be invited, and that the party would re-Invited, and that the party would return to the furnished house at Lancaster Gate which had been taken by Mr. Aloysius Doran. Two days later—that is, on Wednesday last—there is a curt announcement that the wedding had taken place, and that the honeymoon would be passed at Lord Back-water's place, near Petersfield. Those are all the notices which appeared be-fore the disappearance of the bride," "Before the what?" asked Holmes,

with a start.
"The vanishing of the lady." "When did she vanish, then?"
"At the wedding breakfast."
"Indeed. This is more interesting than it promised to be; quite dramatic,

"Yes; it struck me as being a little out of the common "They often vanish before the cere-

mony, and occasionally during the honeymoon; but I cannot call to mind anything quite so prompt as this. Pray let me have the details." "I warn you that they are very in-

"Perhaps we may make them less

"Such as they are, they are set forth in a single article of a morning paper of yesterday, which I will read to you. It is headed, 'Singular Occurrence at a Fashionable Wedding:'
"'The family of Lord Robert St.

Simon has been thrown into the greatest consternation by the strange and painful episodes which have taken place in connection with his wedding. The ceremony, as shortly announced in the papers of yesterday, occured on the previous morning; but it is only now that it has been possible to con-firm the strange rumors which have been so persistently floating about. In spite of the attempts of the friends to hush the matter up, so much public attention has now been drawn to it that no good purpose can be served by affecting to disregard what is a common subject for conversation.

subject for conversation.

"The ceremony, which was performed at St. George's, Hanover square, was a very quiet one, no one being present save the father of the bride, Mr. Aloysius Doran, the Duchess of Balmoral, Lord Backwater, Lord Eustace and Lady Clara St. Simon (the younger brother and sister of the brideryoom), and Lady Alicia Whitbridegroom), and Lady Alicia Whittington. The whole party proceeded afterward to the house of Mr. Aloysius "Oh yes, with the deepest interest."
"That is well. The letter which I hold in my hand is from LordSt.Simon, I will read it to you, and in return you must turn over these papers and let me have whatever bears upon the read of the house of Mr. Aloysius Doran, at Lancaster Gate, where breakfast had been prepared. It appears that some little trouble was caused by a woman, whose name has not been ascertained, who endeavoyed to be a secretained. orn over these papers and let me have ascertained, who endeavoired to force that ever bears upon the matter. This her way into the house after the bridal party, alleging that she had some claim upon Lord St. Simon. It was only after a painful and prolonged scene that she was elected by the butler and the footman. The bride, who had fortunately entered the house before this unpleasant interruption, had sat do to breakfast with the rest, when she and retired to her room. Her prolonged from her maid that she had only come up to her chamber for an instant caught up an ulster and bonnet, and the footmen declared that he had seen believing her to be with the company On ascertaining that his daughter had disappeared, Mr. Aloysius Doran, in conjunction with the bridegroom, instantly put themselves in commun tion with the police, and very energetic inquiries are being made, which will probably result in a speedy clearing

up of this very singular business. Up to a late hour last night, however nothing had transpired as to the whereabouts of the missing lady. There are rumors of foul play in the matter, and it is said that the police have caused the arrest of the woman who in the belief that, from lealousy or concerned in the strange disappear-ance of the bride." "And is that all?"

"Only one little item in another of the morning papers, but it is a sugges-

"That Miss Flora Millar, the lady who had caused the disturbance, has actually been arrested. It appears that she was formerly a danseuse at the 'Allegro,' and that she has known the bridegroom for some years. There are no further particulars, and the whole case is in your hands now-so far as it has been set forth in the public

"And an exceedingly interesting case it appears to be. I would not have missed it for worlds. But there is a ring at the bell, Watson, and as the clock makes it a few minutes after 4. I have no doubt that this will prove to be our noble client. Do not dream he gave a little stately cough—"he of going, Watson, for I very much pre- I thought her to be at bottom a fer having a witness, if only as a check to my own memory,"
"Lord Robert St. Simon," announced

our page-boy, throwing open the door. her." Here is the first notice which I can A gentleman entered, with a pleasant, find. It is in the personal column of cultured face, high-nosed and pale the Morning Post, and dates, as you with something perhaps of petulance the Morning Post, and dates, as you with something perhaps of petulance see, some weeks back. 'A marriage has about the mouth, and with the steady, been arranged, it says, and will, if well-opened eye of a man whose pleas-rumor is correct, very shortly take ant lot it had ever been to command place, between Lord St. Simon, second and to be obeyed. His manner was son of the Duke of Balmoral, and Miss brisk, and yet his general appearance Hatty Doran, the only daughter of Aloysius Doran, Esq., of San Francisco, Cal., U. S. A. That is all."

"Tarse and to be obeyed. His hanner was brisk, and yet his general appearance gave an undue impression of age, for he had a slight forward stoop and a little bend of the knees as he walked. "The se and to be obeyed. His hair the server was all the best of the lustrous black hair, the large dark eyes, and the exquisite mouth. Holmes gazed long and earnestly at it, Then he closed the locket and handed it back to Lord St. Simon. remarked His hair, too, as he swept off his very ward the fire.

"There was a paragraph amplifying to his dress, it was careful to the verge of foppishness, with high collar, black frock coat, white waistcoat, yellow gloves, patent-leather shoes, and lightcolored gaiters. He advanced slowly into the room, turning his head from left to right, and swinging in his right hand the cord which held his golden

Good day, Lord St. Simon," Holmes, rising and bowing. take the basket chair. This is my friend and colleague, Dr. Watson.

Draw up a little to the fire, and we will talk this matter over."

"A most painful matter to me, as you"

"Yes,"

"the subject."

"Very naturally not. Did you see Miss Doran on the day before the wedding?"

"Yes."

can most readily imagine, Mr. Holmes. I have been cut to the quick. I under stand that you have already managed several delicate cases of this sort, sir, though I presume that they were hard-

'No. I am descending.' last client of the sort was a her then'

king."

"Well, to tell the truth, I saw then quiet when she saw that there was no the first signs that I had ever seen that good in making a row."

"The king of Scandinavia."
"What! Had he lost his wife?"

"You can understand," said Holmes "You can understand," said Holmes, suavely, "that I extend to the affairs of my other clients the same secrecy which I promise to you in yours."
"Of course! Very right! very right! I'm sure I beg pardon. As to my own case, I am ready to give you any information which may assist you in forming an enjulpy."

ncident, however, was too trivial to relate and can have no possible bearing upon the case."
"Pray let us have it, for all that."

"Oh, it is childish. She dropped her bouquet as we went toward the vestry. She was passing the front pew at the time, and it fell over into the pew. There was a moment's delay, but the gentleman in the pew handed it up to her again, and it did not appear to be the worse for the fall. Yet, when I spoke to her of the matter she answered me abruptly, and in the carriage, on our way home, she seemed absurdly agitated over this trifling

'Indeed! You say that there was a



She Caught Up an Ulster and Bonnett and Hurried Down to the Passage.

plementing before any one could offer an opinion. I think that I may arrive at my facts most directly by question

When did you first meet Miss Hatty

"In San Francisco, a year ago." "You were traveling in the states?"

"Did you become engaged then?"

But you were on a friendly foot-

"I was amused by her society, and she could see that I was amused." "Her father is very rich?"

"He is said to be the richest man on

the Pacific slope."
"And how did he make his money" "In mining. He had nothing a few years ago. Then he struck gold, inyears ago.

'Now what is your own impression

to the young lady's-your wife's character?

little faster and stared down into the fire. "You see, Mr. Holmes," said he, "my wife was 20 before her father became a rich man, During that time she ran free in a mining camp, and wan-

dered through woods or mountains, so ture rather than from the schoolmaster. She is what we call in England a temboy, with a strong nature, wild and free, unfettered by any sort of trawas about to say. She is swift in making up her mind, and fearless in carrying out her resolutions. On the other hand, I would not have given her the he gave a little stately cough-"had not woman. I believe she is capable of

heroic self-sacrifice, and that anything dishonorable would be repugnant to "Have you her photograph?" "I brought this with me. a pocket, and showed us the full face of a very lovely woman. It was not a photograph, but an ivory miniature and the artist had brought out the full effect of the lustrous black hair, the 'The young lady came to Londor then, and you renewed your acquaint-

"Yes, her father brought her over for this last London season. I met her several times, became engaged to her, and have now married her.

She brought, I understand, a considerable dowry? fair dowry. Not more than is usual in my family.

"And this, of course, remains to you since the marriage is a fait accompli?" "I really have made no inquiries on the subject."

"Was she in good spirits?" "Never better. She kept talking of that we should do in our future lives. "Indeed! That is very interesting. And on the morning of the wedding?" She was as bright as possible-at least until after the ceremony."
"And did you observe any change in

her temper was just a little sharp. The

"But it needs a great deal of sup- gentleman in the pew. Some of the general public were present, then?"
"Oh, yes, It is impossible to exclude them when the church is open. "This gentleman was one of your wife's friends?"

"No, no; I call him a gentleman by courtesy, but he was quite a commonlooking person. I hardly noticed his appearance. But really I think that we are wandering rather far from the

Lady St. Simon, then, returned from the wedding in a less cheerful frame of mind than she had gone to it. What did she do on re-entering her father's

I saw her in conversation with her 'And who is her maid?" "Alice is her name. She is an Amer

can, and came from California with "A confidential servant?"

"A little too much so. It seemed to

me that her mistress allowed her take great liberties. Still, of course, America they look upon these things i 'How long did she speak to this

"Oh, a few minutes. I had something You did not overhear what they

Lady St. Simon said something about 'jumping a claim.' She was accustomed to use slang of the kind. have no idea what she meant. when she finished speaking to her

'She walked into the breakfast

"On your arm?" "No, alone. She was very indepen dent in little matters like that. Then after we had sat down for ten utes or so, she rose hurriedly. tered some words of apology, and left the room. She never came back."
"But this maid, Alice, as I understand, deposes that she went to her room, covered her bride's dress with long ulster, put on a bonnet, and

seen walking into Hyde park in com pany with Flora Millar, a woman whis now in custody, and who had al ready made a disturbance at Mr. Doran's house that morning."
"Ah, yes. I should like a few particulars as to this young lady and

Lord St. Simon shrugged his should ders and raised his eyebrows. "We have been on a friendly footing for some years—I may say on a very friendly footing. She used to be at the Allegro. I have not treated her un generously, and she has no just caus of complaint against me, but you know what women are, Mr. Holmes. Flora was a dear little thing, but exceedingly hot-headed, and devotedly attached to me. She wrote me dreadful letters when she heard that I was about to be married; and, to tell the truth, the reason why I had the marriage celegrated so quietly was that I feeted. grated so quietly was that I follow there might be a scandal in church. She came to Mr. Doran's door just after we returned, and she en-deavored to push her way in, uttering very abusive expressions toward my wife, and even threatening her; but had foreseen the possibility of some-thing of the sort, and I had two police fellows there in private clothes, soon pushed her out again. She was

"Did your wife hear all this?"

"No, ihank goodness, she did not."
"And she was seen walking with this very woman afterward?"
"Yes. That is what Mr. Lestrade, of "TI

Scotiand Yard, looks upon as so serious. It is thought that Flora decoyed my wife out and laid some terrible trap for her."
"Well, it is a possible supposition."

"You think so, too?"
"I did not say a probable one But you do not yourself look upon this as

"I do not think Flora would hurt a "Still, jealousy is a strange etransformer of character. Pray what is your own theory as to what took

well, really, I came to seek a body, not propound one. I have given you all the facts. Since you ask me, however, I may say that it has occurred to me as possible that the excitement of this affair, the consciousness that she had made so immense a social stride, had the effect of causing, some little nervous disturbance in my

'In short, that she had become sud-

denly deranged?"
"Well, really, when I consider that she has turned her back—I will not say

after all this cross questioning. I had formed my conclusions as to the case before our client came into the room."

'My dear Holmes!" "I have notes of several similar cases, though none, as I remarked before, which were quite as prompt. My whole examination served to turn my conjecture into a certainty. Circumstantial evidence is occasionally very convincing, as when you find a trout in the milk, to quote Thoreau's expended.

The official detective was attired in a pea-jacket and cravat, which gave him a decidedly nautical appearance, and he carried a black canvas bag in his

"And I feel dissatisfied. It is this

infernal St. Simon marriage case. can make neither head nor tail of the

"Really! You surprise me. 'Who ever heard of such a mixed fair? Every clue seems to slip through my fingers. I have been at work upon it all day."
"And very wet it seems to have

made you," said Holmes, laying his hand upon the arm of the pea-jacket. "Yes, I have been dragging the Ser-

'In search of the body of Lady St Sherlock Holmes leaned back in his chair and laughed heartily.

"Have you dragged the basin of Trafalgar square fountain?" he asked.

"Why? What do you mean?"

"Because you have just as good a hance of finding this lady in the one as in the other Lestrade shot an angry glance at my

companion. "I suppose you know all about it," he snarled. Well, I have only just heard the facts, but my mind is made up."
"Oh, indeed: Then you think that the Serpentine plays no part in the

I think it very unlikely. "Then perhaps you will kind y ex-plain how it is that we found this in He opened his bag as he spoke and tumbled on to the floor a wedding dress of watered silk, a pair of white satin shoes and a bride's wreath and veil, all discolored and soaked in water. "There," said he, putting a new wedding ring upon the top of the pile.
"There is a little nut for you to crack,

"Oh, indeed!" said my friend, blowing blue rings into the afr. "You dragged them from the Serpentine?" "No. They were found floating near the margin by a parkkeeper. They have been identified as her clothes, and

Master Holmes."

every man's body is to be found in the

"At some evidence implicating Flora ing. Millar in the disappearance. "I am afraid that you will find it the altar. 'Are you, indeed, now?" cried Les- like my friend and me

your interences. For have him. This blunders in as many minutes. This should like all Europe and America to should like all Europe and America to hear the rights of it." He was a small, hear the rights of it."

"In the dress is a pocket. In the a sharp face and alert manner. pocket is a card case. In the card case is a note. And here is the very note." He shapped it down upon the table in front of him. "Listen to this: 'You will see me when all is ready. Come at once. F. H. M.' Now my theory all along has been that Lady theory all along has been that Lady St. Simon was decoyed away by Flora Willar, and that she, with confederates, no doubt, was responsible for her disappearance. Here, signed with her initials, is the very note which was no doubt slipped into her hand at the door and will lured her within their reach."

struck a rich pocket and made a pile, while poor Frank here had a claim that petered out and came to nothing. The richer pa grew, the poorer was Frank; so at last pa wouldn't hear of our endough and the poor Frank here had a claim that petered out and came to nothing. The richer pa grew, the poorer was Frank; so at last pa wouldn't hear of our endough and here initials, is the very note which was no doubt slipped into her hand at the took me away to 'Frisco. Frank wouldn't throw up his hand, though; so he followed me there, and he saw this poor frank here had a claim that petered out and came to nothing. The richer pa grew, the poorer was Frank; so at last pa wouldn't hear of our endough and here initials, is the very note which was no doubt was responsible for her initials, is the very note with her initials.

"Very good, Lestrade," said Holmes, laughing. "You really are very fine indeed. Let me see it." He took up ourselves. Frank said he would go and the paper in a listless way, but his at-

he gave a little cry of satisfaction. as pa. So then I promised to wait for him to the end of time, and pledged myself not to marry any one else while

are, so I congratulate you again."

"I've wasted time enough," said Lestrade, rising. "I believe in hard work I never doubted that Frank was really

of ancient and cob-webby bottles. Having laid out all these luxuries my two
visitors vanished away, like the genii
of the Arabian Nights, with no explanation save that the things had
been paid for and were ordered to this
address.

was only a line asking me to join him
when he made the sign to me to do
so. Of course I never doubted for a
moment that my first duty was now to
him, and I determined to do just whatever he might direct.

Just before 9 o'clock Sherlock Holmes

sion upon his aristocratic features

family has been subjected to such hu-

miliation? allow that there is any humiliation."

"Ah, you look on these things from another standpoint.

at such a crisis." gers upon the table.

and Mrs. Francis Hay Moulton. The lady, I think, you have already met." At the sight of these new-comers our lient had sprung from his seat and Lord St. Simon had by no means re At the sight of these new-conters our client had sprung from his seat and stood very erect, with his eyes cast cown and his hand thrust into the breast of his frock coat, a picture of offended dignity. The lady had taken a quick step forward and had held out her hand to him, but he still refused

"You're angry, Robert," said she, 'Well, I guess you have every cause to

"Pray make no apology to me," said were there the body would not be far Lord St. Simon, bitterly.
"Oh. yes, I know that I have treated "Ey the same brilliant reasoning, you real bad and that I should have your man's body is to be found in the spoken to you before I went; but I was neighborhood of his wardrobe. And pray what did you hope to arrive at when I saw Frank here again I just didn't know what I was doing or saying. I only wonder I didn't fall down and do a faint right there before

Perhaps, Mrs. Moulton, you would trade, with some bitterness. "I am room while you explain this matter? afraid, Holmes, that you are not very "If I may give an opinion." practical with your deductions and marked the strange gentleman, "we've your inferences. You have made two had just a little too much secrecy over blunders in as many minutes. This this matter already. For my part, I riry, sunburnt man, clean shaven, with

> "Then I'll tell our story right away, said the lady. "Frank here and I me "Frank here and I met said the lady. Frank here and I met in '84, in McQuire's camp, near the Rockies, where pa was working a claim. We were engaged to each other, Frank and I; but then one day father struck a rich pocket and made a pile, me without pa knowing anything about it. It would only have made him mad

tention instantly became riveted, and | back to claim me until he had as mu "Ha! you find it so?"
"Extremely so. I congratulate you he lived. 'Why shouldn't we be married right away, then,' said he, 'and ried right away,' then,' said he, 'and ried ried ried right away,' then,' said he, 'and ried ried right away,' then,' said he, 'and r Lestrade rose in his triumph and bent then I will feel sure of you, and I won't

Lestrade rose in his triumph and bent his head to look. "Why," he shricked, "you're looking at the wrong side!"
"On the contrary, this is the right side."
"The right side? You're mad! Here is the note written in pencil over here."
"And over here is what appears to be the fragment of a hotel bill, which interests me deeply."
"There's nothing in it. I looked at it before," said Lestrade. "Oct. 4, rooms 8s., breakfast 2s 6d., cocktail 1s., lunch 2s. 6d., glass sherry, 8d. I see nothing in that."
"Very likely not. It is most important, all the same. As to the note, it is important also, or at least the initials are, so I congratulate you again."
"It was taked by Apache Indians, and there was my Frank's name among the killed. I fainted dead away, and I was very sick for months after. Pa thought I had a decline, and took me to half the doctors in 'Frisco. Not a word of and not sitting by the fire spinning fine theories. Good day, Mr. Holmes, and we shall see which gets to the bottom of the matter first." He gathered up the garments, thrust them into the bag and made for the door.

"It was a really dead. Then Lord St. Simon came to Frisco, and we came to London, and a marriage was arranged, and pa was very pleased, but I felt all the time take the place in my heart that had been given to my poor Frank."

"Well, really, when I consider that she has turned her back—I will not say upon me, but upon so much that many have aspired to without success—I can hardly explain it in any other fashlon."

"Well, certainly that is also a concivable hypothesis," said Holmes, smiling. "And now, Lord St. Simon, I think that I have nearly all my data. May I ask whether you were seated at the breakfast table so that you could see out of the wondow?"

"We could see the other side of the road and the park."

"Quite so. Then I do not think that I need to detain you longer. I shall communicate with you."

"Should you be fortunate enough to solve this problem," said our client, rising.

"Thave solved it."

"The what I have solved it."

"That is a detail which I shall speedily supply."

That is a detail which I shall speedily supply."

That is a detail which I shall speedily supply."

That is a detail which I shall speedily supply."

That is a detail which I shall speedily supply."

That is a detail which I shall speedily supply."

The the solved it."

"That is a detail which I shall speedily supply."

There is not, and there never has been any such person."

It is something in what the door behind him when Holmes rose and put on his speedily supply."

It was after 5 o'clock when Sherlock Holmes, ledge, flat box. This he unpacked with his own, "said Sherlock Holmes, laughing. "I think that I shall have a whisky and sood a and a cigar after all this cross questioning. I had formed my conclusions as to the case with the followers after all these leximate into moan on this earth wat that doen in the door.

"Just one hint to door. Lestrade, "day the thought of the matter first." He gas there doen the door.

"Just one hint to gou. Lestrade, "silved in the solution of the matter in the door.

"Just one hint to gou. Lestrade, "Silved in the speedily supply."

Lestrade looked sadly at my companion. Then he turned to me. tapped a swar in the supplementation of the matter in the door.

"It is very good of Lord St. Simon honor my head by putting i

"When I got back I told my maid Just before 9 o'clock Sherlock Holmes stepped briskly into the room. His features were gravely set, but there was a light in his eye which made me think that he had not been disapment of the hord white statement of the hard statement of the h think that he had not been disappointed in the milk, to quote Thoreau's example."

"But I have heard all that you have heard."

"Without, however, the knowledge of pre-existing cases which serves me so well. There was a parallel instance in Aberdeen some years back, and something on very much the same lines at Munich the year after the Franco-prussian war. It is one of these cases—but, hello, here is Lestrade. Good afternoon, Lestrade! You will find an extra tumbler upon the sideboard, and there are cigars in the box."

The official detective was attired in a time that he had not been disappointed in his conclusions.

"They have laid the supper, then, he said, rubbing his hands.

"You seem to expect company. They have laid the supper, then, he said, rubbing his hands.

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"Yes, I fancy we may have some company dropping in," said he. "I am at the other side of the road. He beckoned to me and then began walking into the park. I slipped out, put on my things and followed him. Some wonder at the other side of the road. He beckoned to me and then began walking into the park. I slipped out, put on my things and followed him. Some wonder at the other side of the road. He beckoned to me and then began walking into the park. I slipped out, put on my things and followed him. Some wonder at the other side of the road. He beckoned to me and then began walking into the park. I slipped out, put on my things and extra tumble at the other side of the road. He beckoned to me and then began walki on upon his aristocratic features.

"My messenger reached you, then?"

marriage also—but I managed to get away from her, and soon overtook asked Holmes.
"Yes, and I confess that the contents had taken in Gordon Square, and that he carried a black canvas bag in his hand. With a short greeting he seated himself and lit the cigar which had been offered to him.

"What's up, then?" asked Holmes, with a twinkle in his eye. "You look dissatisfied."

"Yes, and I contess that the contents startled me beyond measure. Have you good authority for what you say?"

"The best possible."

"The best possible."

Lord St. Simon sank into a chair and passed his hand over his fore and passed his hand over his fore."

I had taken in Gordon Square, and that was my true wedding after all those years of waiting. Frank had been a caped, came on to 'Frisco, found that had been a prisoner among the Apaches, had example to the proposition of gone to England, followed me there and had come upon me at last on the mured," "when he hears that one of the very morning of my second wedding.

milly has been subjected to such huifliation?"

"I saw it in a paper." explained the American. "It gave the name and the church, but not where the lady lived." should do, and Frank was all for open nother standpoint."

"I fail to see that any one is to that I felt as if I should like to vanish "I fail to see that any one is to blame. I can hardly see how the lady could have acted otherwise, though her abrupt method of doing it was undoubtedly to be regretted. Having no mother, she had no one to advise her at such a crisis." at such a crisis."
"It was a slight, sir, a public slight," said Lord St. Simon, tapping his fingers when the table.

"It was a slight, sir, a public slight," clothes and things and made a bundle of them, so that I should not be traced. gers upon the table.

"You must make allowance for this peor girl, placed in so unprecedented a position."

"I will make no allowance. I am very angry indeed and I have been appropriately appropriat very angry indeed, and I have been us this evening, though how he found us is more than I can think, and he "I think I heard a ring," said Holmes. showed us very clearly and kindly that "Yes, there are steps on the landing. I was wrong and that Frank was right.

If I cannot persuade you to take a and that we should be putting ourlenient view of the matter, Lord St. selves in the wrong if we were so sec-Simon, I have brought an advocate here ret. Then he offered to give us a who may be more successful. He chance of talking to Lord St. Simon opened the door and ushered in a lady alone, and so we came right away and gentleman. "Lord St. Simon," said round to his rooms at once. Now, he, "allow me to introduce you to Mr. Robert, you have heard it all, and I am

> laxed his rigid attitude, but listened with a frowning brow and a compressed lip to this long narrative. "Excuse me," he said, "but it is not my custom to discuss my most intimate personal affairs in this public man-

to raise his eyes. It was as well for his resolution, perhaps, for her pleading face was one which it was hard to re-"Oh, certainly, if it would give you any pleasure." He put out his hand and coldly grasped that which she extended to him.
"I had hoped," suggested Holmes,

"that you would have joined us in friendly supper. "I think that there you ask a little too much," responded his lordship. "I may be forced to acquiesce in these recent developments, but I can hardly be expected to make merry over them I think that, with your permission,

rill now wish you all a very good ight." He included us all in a sweeping bow and stalked out of the room.
"Then I trust that you at least will honor me with your company," said Sherlock Holmes. "It is always a joy am one of those who believe that the folly of a monarch and the blundering of a minister in fargone years will not prevent our children from being some day citizens of the same world country under a flag which shall quartering of the Union Jack with the Stars and Stripes,"

remarked Holmes, when our vis itors had left us, "because it serves to show very clearly how simple the explanation may be of an affair which at first sight seems to be almost inex-plicable. Nothing could be more natural than the sequence of events as narrated by this lady, and nothing stranger than the result when viewed, for instance, by Mr. Lestrade, of Scotland Yard.

"You were not yourself at fault at

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